

LEAVING ROLE

DAVID HODGE
STEPS DOWN See page 6



STATE OF ART

WIN TICKETS TO SEE
MOSCOW CIRCUS

See page 9



DEEP, DARK WOOD

YOUR CHANCE TO
MEET THE GRUFFALO

See page 5



Epsom

Guardian

www.epsomguardian.co.uk

March 30, 2017

60p

Residents urge action as High Street branch remains shut

REPORTER

CRAIG RICHARD

craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

RESIDENTS have urged businesses to come forward and provide a home for a secure, permanent post office service after the unexpected closure of the High Street franchise.

Stamford Ward Residents' Association has also urged concerned residents to contact the Post Office directly, stating why Epsom needs a local branch.

Doubt was initially cast over the long-term future of the branch, run out of the Costcutter in High Street, when signs appeared in the window announcing it would be temporarily closed in January.

A new town centre branch has yet to be re-opened.

Courier services are run from East Street, Epsom, but the closure of the High Street branch – which offered a full post office service – has made everything from cashing cheques and giro to collecting mail and sending parcels in Epsom more difficult.

Joe Lambert, chairman of Stamford Ward Residents Association, said: "There has been a lot of public concern about the post office, particularly from people of a certain generation who would like the comfort of a post office. They would like to see it open again. There is a need for security, because of the handling of cash, and a strong broadband connection, so it is not a trivial matter (as to where a branch could be located).

"I would hope some of the bigger players in the town see what the plight of many residents is, and would hope they would like to house a franchise."

Stamford ward councillor Richard Baker said: "This is a vital community facility which, due to a private dispute, has been denied to the residents of Epsom. Frankly, it's embarrassing."

The leaseholder of the branch at



Stamford ward councillor Richard Baker outside the post office branch in Costcutter

Picture: Craig Hilsenrath

74-76 High Street, Community Brokers International, was wound up at the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) in Bristol on January 19.

After the winding up order, the Post Office rejected an offer of a new lease, the site's landlord, Primoco, said, but a post office spokeswoman would not confirm or deny or the rejection.

Dorah May Hancock, chief officer of Age Concern Epsom and Ewell, echoed Mr Lambert's desire for a stable service to be provided in the town. She said: "Age Concern Epsom & Ewell hopes that a full Post Office service will be restored in Epsom

town centre as quickly as possible.

"This is of particular importance to the older people who live in the borough who may not easily be able to travel elsewhere for services that are very important to them."

A Post Office spokesperson, said: "We are working hard to try to restore Post Office service to Epsom as soon as possible. A range of locations are being considered. Post Office apologises to customers for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of the branch."

The Post Office spokeswoman advised the nearest post offices are:

Epsom, KT19 9XF

•Ewell Post Office, 4-5 Market Parade, High Street, Epsom, KT17 1SL

•Poole Road Post Office, 53 Poole Road, Epsom, KT19 9SQ

•Drift Bridge Post Office, 213 Fir Tree Road, Epsom, KT17 3LB

•Ashted Post Office, 39 The Street, Ashted, KT21 1AA

•Ewell Court, 179 Kingston Road, Epsom, KT19 0AA (Passport check & send)

•Sutton Post Office, 19 Grove Road, Sutton, SM1 1DX (for AEI machine)

To tell the Post Office why branch-needed, visit postoffice.co.uk/contact-us-complaint.

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HEALTH IN FOCUS: Anders Anglesey looks at the problem facing the NHS as many European Union nurses leave

'EU nurses are needed and welcome'

RECORD numbers of European Union (EU) nurses are turning their backs on the NHS and are quitting their jobs in the NHS, figures have revealed.

The number of EU nurses registering in England dropped 92 per cent from 1,304 in July to only 96 in December, according to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

A freedom of information request made by the Liberal Democrats to 80 of NHS England's 136 acute trusts also revealed that 2,700 nurses from the EU left the health service, compared to 1,600 in 2014.

The shock figures led Lib Dems to call for an "NHS Passport" in a bid to retain the 59,000 EU citizens who work in the NHS.

The RNC blasted Prime Minister Theresa May for not offering reassuring EU citizens that they would be able to remain in the UK.

Their statement came after the majority of MPs voted to allow the Prime Minister to negotiate over the rights of EU nationals in the UK, in exchange for the rights of British citizens living in the block.

Janet Davies, chief executive and general secretary of the RCN, said: "The Government risks turning off the supply of qualified nurses from around the world at the very moment the health service is in a staffing crisis like never before."

"As she pulls the trigger to begin negotiations, Theresa May must tell EU nurses and other occupations that they are needed and welcome in the NHS. It would not survive without their contribution."

"Sadly, it is no surprise that EU staff are leaving, they have been offered no security or reassurance that they will be able to keep their jobs. Few are able to live with such uncertainty."

"The Government has failed to train enough British nurses and cannot afford to lose the international workforce on which the NHS so heavily relies."

Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, admitted the NHS was facing a "big challenge" in recruiting nurses from the EU following Brexit when he addressed the chief nursing officer's summit



Health secretary Jeremy Hunt visiting Surbiton patient Bernard Homa and District Nurse Lesley Channer during the trip there a few years ago

in Birmingham earlier this month.

He said: "I think that the big challenge about the nursing workforce is going to be over the changed environment that we are going to be facing as a country post-Brexit, because we have relied on recruiting

from the European labour markets for many years."

"I don't envisage any cliff edge in stopping us being able to continue access where there is clear need from the European labour market."

"However we have to recognise that the nurse shortages

that we have are the nurse shortages in other European countries as well. They are able to move freely now, and we still find it incredibly hard to get enough nurses and enough healthcare assistants."

"So we need to think about new ways into nursing, new

ways back to nursing, and that, I think, is alongside making sure that we train nurses that we have with the new skills."

"That is going to be a very important part of making sure that we have the nursing workforce that we need, going forward."

Will cuts force schools into a four-day week?

SURREY schools face the "very real possibility of moving to a four-day week", desperate headteachers hit by cuts have claimed in a letter to the Chancellor pleading for more government funding.

In a letter to Chancellor Philip Hammond, Heathside School headteacher Ann Cullum, claims the "financial future for Surrey schools is bleak".

Mrs Cullum, who is the executive principal for the ElmWey Learning Trust, which is championing a new free school in Walton, said moving to a four day week is an "unavoidable consequence of the dire financial situation faced by many schools".

She wrote: "Heads are being forced to increase class sizes, reduce the number of teaching and support staff, cut essential support services and restrict the depth and breadth of their curriculum offer."

She added there is "no doubt" the cuts will impact the quality of education offered to Surrey students, "especially our most vulnerable children and young people, including those with SEND (special educational needs and disability) and those children in families that are identified by the government as 'just about managing'".

A National Audit Office report into the financial sustainability of schools said that £3bn of cuts to schools services could be made in the next four years.

But Mrs Cullum said the claim

was "not substantiated", and that National Funding Formula proposals "fail to address historic issues of unfair funding".

The letter was also sent out to parents in an email on March 21.

One parent, whose children study at Heathside and Rydens Enterprise School in Walton, said the situation was "worrying" for her children.

She said: "I'm really concerned, there's a lot of pressure on the government, particularly by local government. My sons are fairly able but it must be exceptionally difficult for parents with children who have special education needs."

"I know Rydens have found it really hard to recruit good maths, science and technology teachers, but they don't have the budget to hire people like that."

"I think teacher should be well paid, it's a hard job. If you can't get them into struggling schools then how do they improve?"

She added that a four-day week would hit full-time working parents "hard".

Heathside School is expected to lose the equivalent of five teachers by 2019 due to the budget cuts, according to schoolcuts.org.uk

The school would lose more than £178,000 in two years' time, which equates to about £168 per pupil.

But Rydens School is expected to lose more than £620,000 by 2019 – equating to 16 teachers or £709 per pupil.

A motion calling on Surrey

County Council to oppose the Government's funding proposals - which would leave Surrey schools with a £37m hole in their budgets by 2019 - was passed at a meeting of the full council on Tuesday.

Councillor Will Forster, who proposed the motion, said it would be a "disaster" for schools to move to a four day week.

He said: "This would be a disaster for pupils, robbing them of crucial learning time and having a hugely negative effect on their academic achievements."

But a Department for Education spokesman said the core schools budget had been protected, in real terms, since 2010, with funding at its highest level on record at more than £40bn in the year 2016/17.

However, he admitted the system for funding distribution was "unfair, opaque and outdated".

He said: "It is clear that there is broad consensus on the need for a fairer funding formula to bring an end to the historic post code lottery in school funding."

"We have been consulting schools, governors, local authorities and parents and will carefully consider the responses to make sure we get the formula right and every pound of the investment we make in education has the greatest impact."

A campaign calling on the Government for a "fairer funding deal for Surrey schools" was set up by Cllr Forster, and can be signed at signme.org.uk/1325

Flooding fears from leaking sewage pipe

A LEAKING sewage pipe has put residents at risk of flooding.

Thames Water engineers are now working to protect properties along Preston Lane in Tadworth, but disruption is expected

until Friday.

Tankers have since been sucking out sewage from the pumping station in Downs Way Close.

Without this, sewage would spill out of the leaking pipe, potentially damaging the environment

and back up through the wider network of pipes putting homes and businesses at risk of flooding, a Thames Water spokesman said.

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EPSOM AND SURROUNDING AREAS

RECENTLY the Ashley Centre announced it was looking for a local charity it could support throughout 2017 with free space for fundraising in the centre and help with promotion of their events.

The Sunnybank Trust provides a range of services to 250 adults and young people with learning disabilities in Epsom. Chief executive Dorothy Watson said: "We are so thrilled to have been chosen as one of the charities for The Ashley Centre."

"Community is an important part of all of our lives and especially for those with learning disabilities."

"The Ashley Centre represents the very heart of our local community, so we are grateful for this wonderful opportunity."

The Epsom Branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind is also being supported during 2017.

EPSOM Lawn Tennis Club is hosting two open days open to everyone, on Saturday April 22 and Saturday May 13 (as part of the LTA Great British Tennis Weekend), from 11am to 3pm.

There will be free tennis coaching on offer, some racket testing and an opportunity to play tennis with and to meet the

SWIMATHON STAR



SIX-YEAR-OLD Sophia Anne Angiama of Sutton, pictured, is getting ready to attempt to swim 1.5 km, 60 lengths of Westcroft Leisure Centre, as part of the Maria Curie swimathon on April 8. Sophia Anne, who started swimming with aquatots as a baby, entered last year in a team with her mum and, aged five, managed to compete 20 lengths. This year she is determined to do it all by herself and is busy practising with her new swimming club Sutton and cheam swimming club.

Sophia said: "I didn't get to meet my grandma as she passed away from cancer before I was born so I want to raise money for people like her." If you would like to make a donation please visit justgiving.com/fundraising/swimathon-2017-Sophiaanne-angiama

members.

The address of the Club is Woodcote Lane, Epsom, KT18 7QN (next to Epsom Hospital).

LEARNING HUB: Cuddington Community Primary School in Worcester Park officially opening its Learning Hub facility.

Chris Grayling MP joined governors, staff and pupils for a celebration assembly on Friday, March 24. The facility has been refurbished with 15 computers and a new library. The school joined The Howard Partnership Trust last July as an academy. It offers spaces for 224 children.

ANNIVERSARY CARD: John and Mary Graystone, pictured below, received a card from the Queen to congratulate them on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They have lived in Croydon for 50 of those 60 years and are members of St Mary's Church, Addington, where they are still very active.



TELL US!

We receive a large number of requests to cover stories and unfortunately we aren't able to publish everything we would like to. However, we now have a section on our website where everyone can upload their story and pictures to be published online.

Visit epsomguardian.co.uk/send_yournews and fill in the form to submit your article. Please include as much detail as you can and include a photo if possible. What's more, we will take as many of your stories as we can and publish them in the paper!



Friendly events

STAFF and residents at Sunrise of Purley are preparing a series of dementia-friendly events to help raise awareness of the condition among local businesses and residents.

The events will build on the town's recent achievement of being designated a 'dementia friendly community' by the Alzheimer's Society and will help the area attain a deeper understanding of what dementia is, and what simple things everyone can do to help those living with it.

A Dementia Friend session will be held on on April 13 from 10.30am to 1pm and a Pastimes tea dance will take place on April 20 from 3pm to 4.45pm. Call Sunrise of Purley on 020 8676 2300 for more details.

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We have **Four** tickets up for grabs to Chessington World of Adventures Resort, plus entry to Chessington's Go Ape courses.

To enter simply answer the following question:
In the story of the

Gruffalo, what is Mouse's favourite food?

**A) Apple crumble,
B) Gruffalo crumble or
C) Blueberry crumble**

To enter text your answer to 80360. Starting with **Gruffalo** leave a space followed by the answer, your name, address and contact number.

Alternatively Send your entry to: Gruffalo Ride Competition, Floor 9, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

The closing date is midnight, Thursday, April 13.

The winners will be selected at random and contacted by the event's organisers. Good luck!

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Terms and conditions

Terms and Conditions for Family of Four Theme Park entrance tickets and Explorer Fastrack

- Family Tickets are valid for a family of four (one adult and three children or two adults and two children).
- Expiry dates will be stated on the tickets.
- No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post.

- The prize is as stated, is not transferable to another individual and no cash or other alternatives will be offered.
- The winner and their companions are responsible for any expenses and arrangements not specifically included in the prize, including any necessary travel arrangements, costs, travel documentation.
- Chessington reserves the right to amend or alter the terms of the competition at any time and reject entries from entrants not entering

into the spirit of the competition.

- Unless stated otherwise the winner will be drawn at random from all correct entries received by the closing date.
- Competitions may be modified or withdrawn at any time.

Terms and Conditions for Family of Four Go Ape gift voucher

- Size, height, weight, age restrictions and medical warnings apply:
- Go Ape participants must be over 1m tall

- There is a maximum weight of 20.5 stone for participants on both Go Ape courses
- Voucher can only be used at the Chessington Go Ape courses

- Vouchers are valid for a year from purchase. The gift voucher expiration date will be stated on them and cannot be used after that date.
- Vouchers cannot be replaced if lost, stolen or destroyed
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chase is for a higher amount than the face value of the voucher(s), the difference can be made up with a credit card payment. If it is less, then change cannot be given

- Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any special promotions, discount tokens, coupons or cards
- Vouchers cannot be sold to any third parties without our consent. If we do give our consent then such consent may be subject to any conditions which we impose. In any

event you may not sell the Vouchers through the internet without our express written consent, which you must obtain before making any such sale. We reserve the right at all times to refuse to permit any sale of Vouchers by you to a third party

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Hodge resigns from body made up of council representatives

Leader leaves LGA post

REPORTER

CRAIG RICHARD

craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

THE head of Surrey County Council has resigned as leader of the Conservatives on the Local Government Association amidst the controversy surrounding the "sweetheart deal".

David Hodge stood down from the LGA – a national body made up of council representatives – claiming he had achieved his goals of shining a light on the pressures councils faced in providing social care.

But opposition councillors at Surrey County Council claim mounting pressure from Liberal Democrats and Labour parties as well as Tory leaders of other councils forced his hand.

Cllr Hodge had come under fire after a cache of documents revealed he had held talks with the government over securing a 'gentleman's agreement' to mitigate a proposed 15 per cent council tax increase.

Leader of Surrey's Liberal Democrats Hazel Watson tabled a motion of no confidence last week in Cllr Hodge last week, which was ultimately rejected.

Will Forster, Lib Dem Councillor for Woking said: "It has become clear that Tories in other local authorities have lost faith



Surrey County Council leader David Hodge

in David Hodge, but Conservatives on Surrey County Council are so out of touch with reality they still back him despite the last two months of allegations of dodgy deals and wrongly sent text messages.

"If senior leaders in local government no longer want David Hodge, why should Surrey residents be stuck with him?"

"The leader of the council at county hall was wrong about the 15 per cent increase in council tax. He was wrong in how he dealt with Surrey's financial problems - and he is wrong to carry on now."

"Surrey County Council needs a fresh start and that means new leadership."

But, announcing his reasons for resigning, in an article for the Municipal Journal – a journal dedicated to local authority business – Cllr Hodge wrote: "As Chairman of the LGA Conservative Group I've worked tirelessly to represent all councils - especially in relation to funding for essential services - so that we are all equipped to serve our residents as best we can."

"I've worked relentlessly to get more attention paid to the pressures councils across the country face providing social care. The result was the introduction of an adult social care precept last year – extended this year – and extra funding in the Chancellor's recent budget."

"Now – with these achievements secured – it's clear others want someone leading the LGA Conservative Group with a different approach."

"They may want someone who will ruffle fewer feathers and so I have decided to resign from my position at the LGA."

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Commuters can try out scheme similar to Oyster cards

All aboard new system

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

EPSOM is to be one of the first stations to trial a new pay-as-you-go ticketing scheme similar to Oyster cards, it was announced this week.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced the rolling-out of contactless system keyGo at Epsom and Ashted stations in a letter to constituents on March 27.

This would be in "April or May", a Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) spokesman advised.

Mr Grayling, MP for Epsom and Ewell, had launched the Zone 6 for Epsom campaign alongside the Epsom Guardian in 2012, but in June 2015 said bringing Oyster cards to Epsom was made difficult because of austerity.

This week Mr Grayling wrote that ministers were "rightly" not in a position to introduce changes for their own constituencies, and that he had been "working on a broader project to introduce smart ticketing and pay as you go on a much wider basis."

Under the keyGo system, passengers tap in and out of stations as they travel throughout the day, a Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) spokesman confirmed.

At the end of each day, a



Epsom and Ewell MP Chris Grayling at Ashted station

'fare engine' then calculates the cheapest fare you should have been charged and deducts the cost from the bank account linked to the keyGo account.

GTR has likened the new system to Oyster cards, which are used across London.

This week Mr Grayling wrote: "I have set my department and the industry the goal of introducing smart cards around the country together over as wide an area as possible over the next two years."

"I have tried the system and

can vouch that it works. I tapped in and out going into Victoria last week, and it worked fine without having to buy a ticket."

Southern, which is part of GTR, began trialling the keyGo system on Southern trains into Victoria and London Bridge, or down towards Dorking and Horsham, at the end of last month.

If the trial is successful, the system would then be extended across London, Mr Grayling wrote.

A spokesman for Southern, which is part of GTR, said: "We can confirm that this spring we'll be extending and improving our exciting pay-as-you-go smartcard called keyGo so that it works at almost all the national rail stations we serve across the Southern, Great Northern and Thameslink network."

"The system, which could previously be used only on Southern services outside the London Travelcard zone, is being tested and will guarantee our passengers the cheapest walk-up fare, overcoming that frequent customer complaint of an overly complex fares structure."

"Passengers will also still be able to buy and load up season tickets to the same smartcard, giving them great discounts and smarter travel combined."

For more information, visit southernrailway.com.

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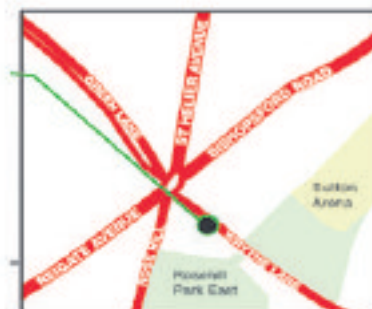
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And the Alikhanov Troupe will perform on two 10-metre poles. Three girls climb and spring to the very top of a pole, while balanced on a single shoulder of a male acrobat.

The star act of the show is the high wire featuring up to five people. Also watch out for unicyclists, the Gorodetskiys duo, Eugeni Hochrova Foot Juggling and trapeze artistes the Peruskins Duo and Anna Rastsova.

Don't miss this amazing show, created especially for the UK and all housed in a state-of-the-art centrally heated theatre style luxury Big Top.

For more information visit moscowstatecircus.com.

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STATE OF THE ART

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Alternatively, send your entry, along with your address and contact details to Moscow State Circus Competition, Floor 9, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.

The closing date is midnight, Thursday, April 6. The winners will be selected at random and contacted by the event's organisers.

Good luck!

TERMS & CONDITIONS One family ticket to the Moscow State Circus. One ticket admits four and is at a value of more than £100. The prize is non-exchangeable, non-transferable, and is not redeemable for cash or other prizes. The tickets are valid at Shepherds Bush Green until April 30. Tickets cannot be used Saturday, Sunday or on bank holidays. Texts cost 50p plus your normal operator text charge. Text lines open March 28, 2017 and close April 6, 2017 at 23:59. Call 020 7998 0549 for help and advice on phone and mobile services. For full terms and conditions visit newsquest.co.uk/terms

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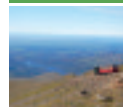
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Decision criticised by some arguing 'council needs voice at top table'

Council leaves 4 groups

REPORTER

CRAIG RICHARD

craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

SURREY County Council is to leave four cross-party bodies "fighting for the interests of local authorities on a national or regional level".

Council leader David Hodge triggered Surrey's exit from the Local Government Association (LGA) in a short letter on March 24, which only became public on Tuesday, March 28.

Surrey's departure from the LGA will take place on March 31, 2018, under Section 20 of the association's constitution.

The county council has also given 12 months' notice to leave the County Councils Network (CCN), South East England Councils (SEEC) and South East Strategic Leaders (SESL).

A spokesman for Surrey's Conservative group said leaving the LGA would save the council £107,000, leaving the CCN would save it £12,000, leaving the SEEC would save it £19,000, and exiting the SESL would save £11,000.

But Liberal Democrat leader Councillor Hazel Watson said she was appalled by the decision and "secretive" nature of Cllr Hodge negotiating Surrey's departure.

She added: "The county council needs a voice at the top table



Move will save Surrey County Council money

Picture: Jon Sharman

and this short-sighted move takes that voice away.

"Only three councils in the country are not members of the LGA, so we are moving from the membership of a large and influential group to an isolated position on the fringes.

Cllr Watson added that the LGA had helped Surrey to recover millions of pounds after the Icelandic banking crash of 2008-11.

She added: "Councillor Hodge should have consulted widely within the county council before even considering such a rash and intemperate move.

"Yet again, his poor judgement and secretive leadership style have led to a poor decision being taken unilaterally, which is not in the best interest of the council or Surrey residents."

Cllr Hodge had told the Epsom

Guardian he was "on holiday".

He had stood down from his leadership of Surrey at the LGA last week claiming he had achieved his goals of shining a light on the pressures councils faced in providing social care.

But opposition councillors at Surrey County Council claim mounting pressure from Liberal Democrats and Labour parties as well as Tory leaders of other councils forced his hand.

A spokesman for Cllr Hodge's Conservative Group on Surrey County Council said: "Given the on-going financial challenges facing SCC, it is essential that we consider all expenditure and continue to act prudently with the county's finances.

"Giving notice on our membership of these external organisations allows us to make a final decision a year from now."

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Jolyon Martin, Managing director (and son of Alex and Ruth), "Myself, Mum and Dad would like to thank all of our customers, visitors and suppliers who have helped to make Chessington Garden Centre a thriving concern. We look forward to many more happy years serving the community and hope that the next 50 years will be just as successful as the last"





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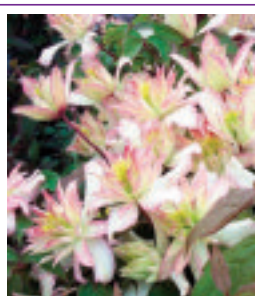
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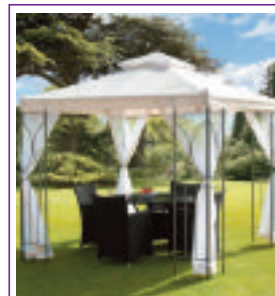
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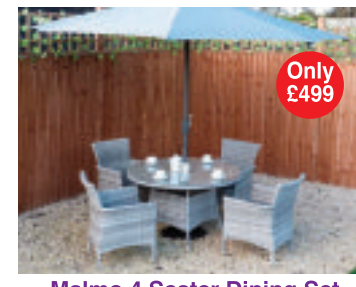
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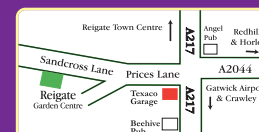
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COMMENT: Don't say your mum is 'best in the world' - and keep your Mother's Day tributes off social media

Your a cold person....it's OK for you to write some diatribe using social media but not others who have a view different to yours....I love my mum and I do think she is the best mum and I'm happy to shout it out on the streets and post it where I like if I feel the need to do so.... and that's no different to most sane individuals who think the same about their mums...if those you follow do the same you always have the option to stop following them and then hey presto problem solved....

GEORGE MARTINS

My mum was the best in this world and is quite probably the best in her new world. My thoughts and feelings don't change with new technology, bumbass. refused to say who was driving at the time and the driver was not prosecuted. The traffic officer that I spoke to said it was the worst piece of driving he had seen in a long time.

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View of MPs

Stuart Thorne in "Your Say" 15 February attacks Lib Dem MP Tom Brake's stance on the Brexit vote and falls into the trap of thinking MPs are puppet delegates for the narrow majority winning the one-issue referendum. The reality is MPs to represent their constituents on a wide range of subjects set out in Party Manifestos. Representation means just that and doesn't necessarily mean agreeing with voters' frequently conflicting opinions.

Tom Brake's support for the EU has been widely known. If Tom turned somersaults to placate a narrow majority of Brexiteers there would be an eruption of accusations of 'turncoat' and worse.

Mr Thorne would be well advised to stick with an MP of proven principle and probity rather than jump ship to UKIP which has lost much support since the General Election.

That may be due to having achieved their objective of winning a Brexit referendum but may be voters' repugnance at the back-biting and fighting among the leadership and their distaste for UKIP MEPs amassing personal fortunes from European Parliament pay and allowances while plotting to destroy the hand that feeds them.

There is growing unease in the UK at the shambles of Brexit negotiations and the time they are taking.

Mr Thorne should, therefore be careful not to back the wrong horse.

Trevor Austin
Sutton Lane
Banstead



Richard Powley took This picture of a rainbow over Cannizaro House. If you would like a picture to be considered for publication in Borough View, email it to aparkes@london.newsquest.co.uk

Disaster waiting to happen soon Many smokers die by age of 65

I have studied the proposed plans for the greyhound site development, and can only say anyone who cares about the area should strongly object to the development of the site.

You can not ignore the fact that a flood will happen and also it is illegal to build on a 3b flood plain rating. How can this dubious proposed development get

the go ahead.

A disaster is waiting to happen. It must be rescinded before a catastrophe happens and that will with no bought on completion of the development, use your heads and stop the grossly over populated build before it is too late.

Ian Tungatt
Address supplied

REGARDING the article "Counting the cost of having a cigarette" on page 5 of the March 16 2017 edition of the Epsom Guardian, the percentages of smokers given for different age groups are misleading, because many smokers will not have lived to the age of 65 years!

Jim Dapre
Bradstock Road
Epsom

'Our infrastructure creaking'

HAVING just read your 'Editor's Comment' in the March 17th 2017 edition I must take issue with its content.

Although I sympathise with the individual concerned nobody forced him to relocate to France and now to find being ostracised tells you all you need to know about our closest northern hemisphere neighbours across the channel.

That is not to say that I tarnish all Frenchmen in this re-

spect but the fact remains that there will always be resentment in one form or another.

The human race unfortunately have short memories when it comes down to it for 43 years we have been members of the European Union as it is now called and we simply have had enough of the bureaucratic nonsense that is the EU!

You also sight the difficulties encountered following his return to his homeland which

is a fundamental result of the population explosion our island has suffered in recent years particularly here in the south-east. Our infrastructure is creaking unable to cope with this influx, not just from Europeans but those from further afield also.

The open door policy practised by various governments in the past but particularly Labour has resulted in the indigenous population saying enough

is enough their must be some form of control to our borders. I have to admit I was surprised by the result last June 23rd having supported "Brexit", but so far all the "Remoaners" are being proved seriously wrong so let us look forward with hope to a prosperous new future once we have left this European superstate.

Ron Adler
Address supplied

Is it about time we renationalise the railways?

It's safe to say everyone was fairly knocked for six by the announcement that the South West Trains lines will be run jointly by British transport giants First Group and the Hong Kong state-owned metro operators, MTR.

One of the implications is that it's yet another suburban service which can't be nationalised for many years. Bringing all these lines under the London Overground banner was one of Sadiq Khan's pre-election policies which drummed up the most excitement. In fact, within my peer group - young professionals in their mid-to-late 20s - only the night tube provoked as much discussion.

As a side note, Mr Khan gets a lot of stick for supposedly claiming the credit for Boris Johnson's night tube policy, as did Mr Johnson for "appropriating" Ken Livingstone's policy of short-journey cycle hires. Fine, Boris bikes. But both Mr Khan and his pre-



EDITOR'S
VIEW

decessor oversaw the implementation of each initiative, which can be tricky business. And the job of Mayor is, really, about getting things done. This brings me, in a painful and convoluted manner reminiscent of the Coventry ring road, back to my general direction of travel. The pledge to seek the nationalisation of all our overground lines, which was so popular, looks dead in the water. The Mayor's press team says he is still "making the case" for it, but it's not going well.

The noise coming from the Department for Transport (DfT) is that First Group and MTR simply put forward a better case for winning the contract,

and that may well be the case. SWT is generally a good service, especially compared to the feckless Southern Rail, but the one knock on it is that it's always very, very crowded.

Well, MTR and First Group have said they will put on a "metro-style" service. They've promised more trains, more frequently, which means more space. That's great. It'll be a new fleet, too, and they'll even have Wifi. Gravy!

But we've heard this before. I do not doubt the integrity of First Group and/or MTR. I am sure this is their intention, but we're looking at simple economics here. Railways are a natural monopoly. There is one franchise for each line, and high overhead costs mean new companies find it difficult to enter the market. If you live in Twickenham, say, there are only a few ways of getting to work in central London. So if a train company is making more or less the same revenue each year, what's the

incentive to provide a better service? Cutting costs directly leads to more profit. This is not a radical view. Polls frequently suggest about 58 per cent of voting age Britons approve re-nationalising the railways. This number is as high as 48 per cent even among Conservative voters. But people seldom hold protests for this sort of thing, nor do they cast their ballot on the issue of public transport alone - at least they don't outside of London. It's a big issue, but perhaps not quite big enough.

The comment by Ben Weich

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Diamond Wedding



Congratulations!

Ann & Brian Mulcock celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with their family on 30th March 2017.

Golden Wedding

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Obituary

BESSIE 'SAN' BONNEY
Died peacefully on 18th March, aged 73. Funeral service to be held at Randalls Park Crematorium on Wednesday 12th April at 2.00pm



TERENCE PETER BRADSHAW
(Terry/Tel)
Born 21st February 1923. Passed away on 23rd March 2017. From Sheepcote Lane to Winstanley Estate via Monte Cassino and other places in between. Funeral at North East Surrey Crematorium, Garth Road, Morden, Thursday 6th April 2017 at 2.40pm. Anyone left who knew Tel welcome
07871 522927(Martin)

Obituary

SOPHIA 'SOPHIE' CHIDWICK

Sadly passed away on 6th March, aged 102. Funeral service will be held on Monday 3rd April, 10.45am at St Peter's Church, Woodmansterne. No flowers please but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o W A Truelove, 121 High Street, Banstead, SM7 2NS

IAN CLARK

Passed away on 8th March 2017 aged 56 years. He was loved deeply and will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral to take place at North East Surrey Crematorium 1.20pm on Monday 3rd April 2017. Enquiries to Frederick W Paine 020 8337 1062

MARJORIE "MARGARET" AILEEN KIMBER

Passed away peacefully at St Helier's Hospital on 19th March. Funeral service to take place at St Dunstan's Church, Cheam on Wednesday 5th April at 12.15pm, followed by committal at North East Surrey Crematorium at 1.20pm. If desired flowers or donations for St Raphael's Hospice c/o W A Truelove, 31 High Street, Cheam SM3 8RE



Obituary



MARGARET STEELE (née Roberts)

17th February 1938-16th March 2017
With great sadness our beloved Wife, Mother, Nan peacefully passed away. Truly loved and missed with a heavy heart. Service to be held at Randalls Park Crematorium 4th April 11.45 all welcome. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research UK c/o Stonemans Funeral Service, 11 Shelveys Hill, Tadworth, KT20 5PU



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Prize money of £10,000 will go towards helping graduates

Enterprise award for Clink

REPORTER

CRAIG RICHARD

craig.richard@
london.newsquest.co.uk

AN innovative charity that aids prisoners' rehabilitation by offering hospitality training has won an award celebrating the work of grassroots charities.

The Clink Charity, which started in HMP High Down on the border of Banstead and Sutton, was presented with the Centre for Social Justice's (CSJ) Social Enterprise Award at a ceremony at Central Hall in Westminster last week.

Since launching in 2009, The Clink Charity has garnered unwavering recognition from the hospitality industry and philanthropic businesses and the concept has expanded to other prisons in Cardiff, Brixton, Styal in Cheshire. Inmates work 40-hour weeks in restaurants based at the prison while working towards vocational qualifications, City & Guilds NVQs, in food preparation, food service and hygiene.

Chris Moore, Chief Executive of The Clink Charity, said the £10,000 prize money would help support graduates after their release. He added: "The issue of reoffending has become one of the most pressing challenges facing society today and it's more important than ever that we look at



Representatives of the Clink Charity receive their award

ways to reduce reoffending rates and give more people a chance to transform their life for the benefit of themselves, their family and society as a whole. For our work to be honoured by receiving this award is testament to the passion and dedication of the entire team so thank you."

People participating in the charity's hospitality training scheme were 41 per cent less likely to reoffend within a year of release than those who did not take part, joint analysis by the Ministry of Justice and the Justice Data Lab found last year.

Andy Cook, Chief Executive of the Centre for Social Justice, said:

"The Clink is a brilliant example of a charity that achieves transformative change by providing the gift of practical and meaningful education. Not only does the charity enable individuals to turn their lives around, it benefits wider society by reducing the taxpayer bill and preventing more people becoming victims of crime."

He added: "Speaking at the Centre for Social Justice earlier this year, the Justice Secretary Liz Truss said the best way to reduce the prison populations was by cutting recidivism. The Clink is helping to achieve exactly that. It is a thoroughly deserving winner of this award."

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HEAD OF AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY CALLS FOR A CURB ON ARMS TRADE AND URGES DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATIONS



On 25th March 2017, the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad delivered the keynote address at the 14th National Peace Symposium hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK. Below are some extracts from his address.



“First of all, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all those affected by Wednesday’s terror attack at Westminster. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of London at this tragic time. On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, I wish to make it categorically clear that we condemn all such acts of terrorism and we offer our heartfelt sympathies to the victims of this barbaric atrocity.”



His Holiness expressed his grief at continued warfare in the Muslim world, as well as voicing his fears about increasing tensions in the rest of the world. His Holiness also called on world powers to curb the sale of weapons and arms.

“No matter what terrorists may claim, under no circumstances are indiscriminate attacks or killings ever justified. Islam has enshrined the sanctity of human life in chapter 5, verse 33 of the Holy Qur’an, which states: ‘Whosoever killed a person – it shall be as if he killed all mankind; and whoso gave life to one, it shall be as if he had given life to all mankind’.”

“The need of the hour is for us to knock down the barriers of fear that divide us. Rather than erecting walls that keep us apart, we should build bridges that bring us closer together... We must stand up against all forms of oppression, hatred and use all our capabilities to try and foster peace in the world.”

“Islam is that religion which has forever enshrined the universal principles of freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and freedom of belief. Therefore, if today there are so-called Muslim groups or sects that are killing people, it can only be condemned in the strongest possible terms. Their barbaric acts are a complete violation of everything that Islam stands for.”



“In my opinion there is one ready-made solution that can have an instant impact and begin the process of healing the world. I refer to the international arms trade, which I believe has to be curbed and restricted.”

Whilst the primary interest of every nation should be the well-being of mankind and achieving peace, it is a sad truth that business interests and the pursuit of wealth invariably take priority over such concerns.”



During the event, His Holiness presented Mrs Setsuko Thurlow, a Hiroshima bomb survivor and peace activist, with the ‘Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace’ in recognition of her outstanding efforts in campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

The 2017 National Peace Symposium was held at the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London, with 1,000 attendees from 30 countries present, including Government Ministers, Ambassadors of State, Members of both Houses of Parliament and various other dignitaries and guests.

Guest speakers included Silvio Daneo (Executive Director of Religions for Peace) and Father David Standley, representing the Archbishop of Southwark who read out a message from the Vatican in support of the Peace Symposium.

Rafiq Hayat, the National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK, offered his condolences to the victims of the Westminster attack and paid tribute to PC Keith Palmer who sacrificed his life for the sake of defending the nation’s democracy.



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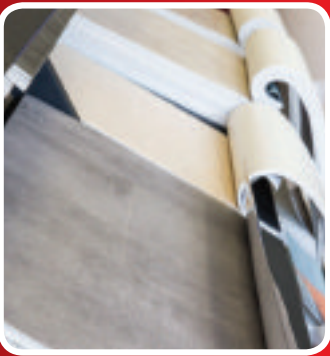
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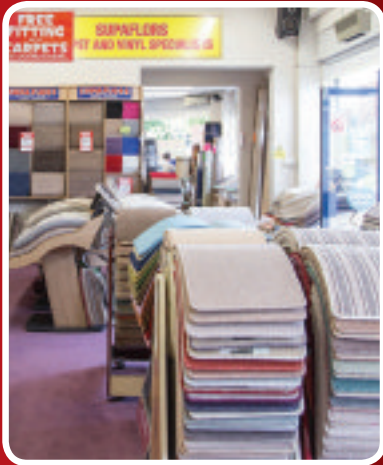
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CORNERHOUSE CRACKER FOR EASTER

The last days in the life of Jesus are movingly portrayed in *The Passion*, being staged at the cornerHOUSE next week.

From his joyful arrival in Jerusalem to his arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection, this second part of the highly acclaimed *Mysteries* trilogy promises to be a

memorable experience — especially in the lead up to Easter.

Created by playwright and poet Tony Harrison, and first staged at the National Theatre in the 1980s, this promenade performance is based on the medieval English mystery plays, which were played out by members of the trade guilds, largely in the streets of Yorkshire.

Director Leo Ellmers recreated the first part of the trilogy, *The Nativity*, at the cornerHOUSE in Douglas Road, in 2006, and has always been keen to bring *The Passion* to Surbiton's versatile community arts centre.

He has assembled a company of talented local actors who represent the craftsmen and women of the original mystery plays.

The cast, some playing multiple roles, will bring many biblical characters to life. They will be accompanied by musicians who are recreating the original score from the National Theatre production — the work of folk legend John Tams and his band, the Home Service.

"Audience members will move around the cornerHOUSE, guided by the actors, in this 'promenade' performance," explained Leo.

"The *Passion* takes you through familiar biblical stories — including the baptism of Jesus, the trial before Pilate and, of course, a powerful and moving crucifixion scene.

"The script is poetic and gritty, with echoes of medieval English from the original mystery plays. Add an amazing musical score, and we believe this will be an unforgettable production."

The *Passion* will be performed from Wednesday, April 5 to Saturday, April 8. The show starts at 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are £9/£7 from ticketsource.co.uk.

What's on

MAJOR ROLE

It's 30 years since Paul McGann made a name for himself in the classic cult film *Withnail & I*. Now he stars as German Major Von Pfunz in *Gabriel* at Richmond Theatre this week. KATE GOULD caught up with him...



Paul McGann needs no introduction. He's the man whose portrayal of the eponymous I in the cult classic *Withnail & I* propelled him to stardom.

That was 30 years ago and in the years since his career has gone from strength to strength and he's become a household name in the process.

Indeed his CV is as impressive as it gets showing his versatility as an actor with performances on both stage and screen including in *Hornblower* and *Luther* and of course playing the eighth incarnation of the Doctor in *Doctor Who*.

But he's never done a UK theatre tour — that is until now. For next month the 57-year-old actor is to pack his bags for an eight-week stint in Moira Buffini's acclaimed play *Gabriel* which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Set in 1943 German occupied Guernsey, it tells the story of widow and mother Jeanne who does whatever it takes to keep her adolescent daughter Estelle and daughter-in-law Lily safe on an island filled with danger and fear.

However she meets her toughest test in the form of the terrifying Commander Von Pfunz whose romantic advances are dangerous to say the least but which may be the only way to keep her family alive.

The tension racks up further when a mysterious young man is washed ashore with no memory of who he is. It transpires he's fluent in German and English, so the question is, is he an RAF pilot, an SS interrogator, a local boy with amnesia or a saviour sent from heaven?

Kicking off in Richmond this week, the production will cross the country.

"It's a fascinating piece," he said.

"It's set in Guernsey in the middle of the Second World War, and it's a great place to set a story. It was a strange time

for the islanders as in many respects, life continued as normal.

"On the face of it, it was a peaceful occupation. There was no armed resistance nor any uprisings.

"However food was scarce, there was a thriving black market, and plenty of wheeling and dealing going on. Indeed some people made a fortune.

"And while some worked the land, most of the men of fighting age were away so it was mainly women left on the island.

"So to have the central character in this play a woman is entirely fitting. Jeanne is widowed and has a daughter with whom she lives and a son who is in the forces. Her house is requisitioned by the German so she has to be careful. There are hints that she had a relationship with a German officer who has now been sent away and by all accounts they got on well — and again if you read the history books, this was what happened in many cases."

Into her life comes Von Pfunz, played by Paul, an army officer who has served in Poland but has now been sent to Guernsey and finds himself captivated by Jeanne.

"He's not a nice man, in fact he's horrible, and he comes on to Jeanne much to her disgust," he grimaces.

"She is repulsed by him and is quite fearful of him, but there is a courage about her that he finds thrilling and intoxicating. It throws her completely.

"Her dilemma is how to get on with the Germans, keep her family safe and survive without submitting to something she doesn't want, where a mistake could be fatal.

"The tension is ratcheted up even further when a young man appears, washed up on a nearby beach. The girls save him and bring him to Jeanne's house where he's hidden. He claims not to know who he is,

and when Von Pfunz later discovers him there the boy is able to speak with him in perfect German."

It was, Paul says, a play he was instantly drawn to not least by the writing which he describes as "superb". "The writing is key and is what really attracted me to playing this role," he says.

"Von Pfunz is like nobody I've played before but it's the way Moira beautifully weaves these situations and tensions together that is so good. It's brilliantly told and when you get a really good story as an actor you can't wait to tell it."

However, keen not to give away any spoilers Paul simply says the audience will be on the edge of their seats to find out what happens.

"Jeanne is constantly in danger, the tension builds to a crescendo and she ends up in a really tight corner," he says eyes twinkling.

This particular role and the fact his two sons are grown up has allowed him the flexibility to take on the challenge of a tour.

"Many touring shows are musicals and there are few straight dramatic plays. I've been offered tours in the past, some of which were tempting, but they tended to last for months so were difficult to commit to."

"This one stood out though as it's so thrilling so I was really up for it. Also I'll get a chance to discover and visit all these theatres that I've never performed in before as well as the different characters of the audiences, which I'm really looking forward to. It's a new experience for me.

"It'll be a bit like running away to the circus!"

Gabriel, Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond, TW9 1QJ until Saturday, April 1. For more details visit atgtickets.com.

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FILM REVIEW

KONG: SKULL ISLAND (12A)

As I'm not a huge fan of reboots, my expectations for Kong: Skull Island were not that high, writes **Mark Foker**.

Having said that. This new version of the infamous giant Gorilla story has a totally different spin on it. There is no film crew led by a deranged and pompous director or even the obligatory cannibalistic local natives to deal with.

Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts version is spot on 2 hours running time and is a more exciting and humorous movie.

The film opens in 1945 where we witness the end of an aerial 'dog-fight' between an American pilot and Japanese fighter pilot, somewhere over an island in the Pacific Ocean.

Both men are forced to bail out and it then becomes a race to see which parachute can land first and then shoot the other down.

Before any outcome, the two opposing soldiers are confronted with the unbelievable sight of a monstrous and angry Gorilla.

We now fast forward to 1973. The Vietnam war is coming to a close and government official William Randa (John Goodman) from an organization called Monarch sees this as an opportunity to ask for funding for his

next expedition to explore an uncharted island in the South Pacific.

According to Randa and his partner geologist Houston Brooks, (Corey Hawkins / 24: Legacy) there has been mysterious disappearances of planes and ships (similar to the Bermuda Triangle) in the area, coupled with stories of strange creatures and undiscovered fauna on this island.

With funding under their belts, they also enlist the services of an army platoon recently disbanded following the Vietnam withdrawal of US troops led by a Colonel Preston Packard (Samuel L. Jackson).

Next on their list is an experienced tracker, explorer and ex-SAS officer James Conrad (Tom Hiddleston) to lead the way and a war correspondent photographer, Mason Weaver (Brie Larson) to document the findings.

The bigger danger for our 'Band of Brothers' comes from the Skull Crawlers, which are large legless lizard type creatures which leads to an exciting battle in a large gorilla graveyard. Jacksons character still thinks he is in Nam and wants to wipe out anyone or anything that gets in his way.

There is also the expendable

'red shirt' soldiers as to be expected. Hiddleston does well as an action hero but is really there as eye candy and it could have been any current in vogue movie star such as Tom Hardy or Jake Gyllenhaal.

Hiddlestone's, James Conrad character (a reference to Joseph Conrad 'Heart of Darkness') is lacking in humour but this is more than made up for by the inclusion of an American pilot Hank Marlow (John C. Reilly) who has been marooned on the island for 28 years and survived by befriending the local native community.

Reilly has some great one liners and there are some real laugh out loud moments such as the naming of the creatures.

This is an old-fashioned adventure and I do love it when you enter the cinema not expecting too much and come out feeling entertained.

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MUSICMAKERS



There are three great nights of live music ahead at the Boom Boom Club in Sutton this weekend featuring some of the greatest tracks of the last fifty years.

Firstly, tonight (Thursday), **Limehouse Lizzy** recreate the atmosphere and passion of the music of the multitalented Phil Lynott and Thin Lizzy.

Thin Lizzy were a unique blend of Celtic Rock, and were blessed with one of the most charismatic front men in the business. Limehouse Lizzy are similarly fortunate in having Lynott lookalike/sound-alike Wayne Ellis at the helm.

On Friday night, Texan guitarist **Mike Zito** brings his brand new power rock-blues trio to Sutton to promote his album Make Blues Not War. Support comes from West Country band Blue Horizon.

On Saturday, there's a mouthwatering treat when **The Mods** hit the stage.

Expect classics from the 60s and early seventies that encapsulate the true essence of Mod music such as The Who, Small Faces, The Kinks, Desmond Dekker, Spencer Davies, Stevie Winwood, The Stones and The Yardbirds.

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THIS WEEK'S BIG FILMS



FREE FIRE

FREE FIRE (15): Chris (Cillian Murphy) and fellow Irishman Frank (Michael Smiley) need to source several cases of M16 rifles to arm their IRA brethren. They head to an abandoned warehouse to complete a deal flanked by hired muscle Bernie (Enzo Cilenti) and Stevo (Sam Riley), under the escort of suave American middle man Ord (Armie Hammer) and his sassy associate, Justine (Brie Larson).

The suppliers are emotionally volatile South African dealer Vernon (Sharito Copley) and his Black Panther associate Martin (Babou Ceesay), who have drafted in two stooges - Harry (Jack Reynor) and Gordon (Noah Taylor) - to even the numbers. The exchange goes sour when Vernon attempts to palm off AR-70 assault rifles in place of the promised weapons. Tempers fray and Justine deflects sexist barbs

aimed to undermine her position. "I'm IIFM - in it for myself," she calmly reminds both sides. When bullets fly as a result of an unfortunate personal connection, fragile alliances disintegrate, rivalries resurface and Vernon loses his slender grasp on reality. "He was misdiagnosed as a child genius and never got over it," wearily notes Justine.

THE SMURFS: LOST VILLAGE (U): Most Smurfs know their purpose and have names that reflect their talents including Hefty (voiced by Joe Manganiello), Clumsy (Jack McBrayer), Brainy (Danny Pudi) and Table-Eating Smurf. "We're not too sure about him either," concedes Papa Smurf (Mandy Patinkin) in voiceover. However, Smurfette (Demi Lovato) is clueless about her calling because she was originally fashioned from clay by evil wizard Gargamel (Rainn Wilson) in order

to wreak havoc in Smurf Village. During a foray into the Forbidden Forest with Hefty, Clumsy and Brainy, Smurfette stumbles upon a lost tribe of female Smurfs led by SmurfWillow (Julia Roberts), who teach the new sister to use a bow and arrow, and fly through the air on a daisy.

Smurfette senses she may have found her place but Gargamel and his cat Azrael also know about Smurf Grove and intend to capture SmurfWillow and her sorority, including fiery-tempered warrior SmurfStorm (Michelle Rodriguez), effusive chatterbox SmurfBlossom (Ellie Kemper) and smartly practical SmurfLily (Ariel Winter). Meanwhile, back in Smurf Village, Papa Smurf is furious to discover four of his wards have defied orders and strayed to the Forbidden Forest.

GHOST IN THE SHELL (12A): In

a bleak futuristic world, government-funded Hanka Robotics is at the forefront of a highly lucrative cybernetic revolution. Hanka head honcho Cutter (Peter Ferdinando) and brilliant surgeon Dr Ouelet (Juliette Binoche) pioneer secret experiments to create the perfect human-cyborg hybrid, giving birth to a fearless warrior called The Major (Johansson).

Ouelet is full of maternal pride for her creation and she oversees The Major's transformation into an obedient killing machine. This perfect weapon is entrusted to Chief Daisuke Aramaki (Takeshi Kitano), commander of the Section 9 security division - a fearless band of sharpshooters, who neutralise the threat posed by cyberterrorists. When an elusive criminal called Kuze (Michael Pitt) begins to assassinate Hanka's scientists by hacking into

the brains of enhanced citizens, The Major somersaults into action flanked by comrades Batou (Pilou Asbaek), Togusa (Chin Han), Ishikawa (Lazarus Ratuere) and Ladriya (Danusia Samal). Their daredevil mission uncovers tantalising evidence of a wider conspiracy that compels The Major to piece together fragmented memories from the human brain inside her sleek engineered body. Ghost In The Shell requires a software upgrade to the script in order to enrich characterisation and expand back stories, but Johansson is beguiling throughout.

THE LOST CITY OF Z (15): British artillery officer Colonel Percy Fawcett (Charlie Hunnam) has been "rather unfortunate in his choice of ancestors". Sir George Goldie (Ian McDiarmid), president of the Royal Geographical Society, offers Percy a chance at redemption by mapping

uncharted territory in Bolivia with the help of local tribesmen. Percy accepts and abandons his wife Nina (Sienna Miller) to venture into the unknown with aide-de-camp Corporal Henry Costin (Robert Pattinson). Their son Jack (Tom Holland) is born is his father's absence and Percy returns home with a strong conviction that he has stumbled upon proof of a lost civilisation - which he calls Z - that will astound the academic elite. "I do believe we are ready to tear down their narrow-minded convictions!" he tells Nina. A second expedition in the company of wealthy adventurer James Murray (Angus Macfadyen) teeters on the brink of disaster, but Percy pushes forward, terrified of the consequences of failure and haunted by the words of a palm reader, who prophesies, "Your soul can never be quiet until you find this place."

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ARLA Propertymark (Association of Residential Letting Agents) has issued its latest Private Rented Sector Report and it makes for interesting reading...

RENT PRICES:

- Rent increases have slowed in the Capital.
- Only eight per cent of agents based in London said rents went up in February, compared to the national average of 25 per cent.

- A quarter (25 per cent) of London-based agents saw rents decrease last month, compared to just one in ten (10 per cent) nationally.

SUPPLY OF RENTAL STOCK:

- Nationally, the number of properties letting agents managed per branch decreased by five per cent last month.

- In January, the number of properties managed per branch increased to a high of 193, but this figure went back down to 183 per branch last month.

- This is a four per cent increase from February 2016, when there were 176 properties managed per branch, indicating stock is rising overall.

DEMAND FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES:

- In February, there were 34 prospective tenants registered per member branch – this is the same number as January, but down year

on year with 37 registered in February 2016 and 40 in February 2015.

Ben Heath, branch manager at Leaders in Epsom, says: "After five to ten years of rapid rises in rent prices in London, it is inevitable that a slowdown would occur."

"What we are seeing in Epsom, Sutton, Croydon and surrounding areas is that more people are choosing to come out of prime central zones to seek more value in outer London, where they can get more property for their money and enjoy a greater quality of life."

David Cox, ARLA Propertymark Chief Executive, said: "The fact that rent prices in London are bucking the national trend is a positive sign for both renters and prospective renters."

"However, this isn't being seen across the rest of the country, as the national average for the number of agents reporting rent hikes rings alarm bells. While London's results indicate a step in the right direction, it must be taken with a pinch of salt."

"With the withdrawal of mortgage interest relief and the Government's decision to ban letting agent fees will more than likely have the opposite effect on rental costs across the country if an out-right ban is imposed."

"The costs of the services provided by letting agents will need to be recouped and will inevitably be passed onto renters through increased rent."

More details at arla.co.uk

RENTING REPORT

Good news for renters as London rent prices buck the national trend...



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A semi-detached home in the heart of Ashtead Village minutes from the shops, key local school catchments & a short walk to the Mainline Station. EPC=D.



Banstead £850,000

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- Secure Underground Parking
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- 4 Double & 1 Single Bedroom
- Ensuite & Family Bathroom
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- Semi Detached Town House
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Leatherhead

£725,000



- Upgraded Semi Detached House
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- E.P.C. Rating D

Tadworth

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- One En-Suite
- Two Reception Rooms
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- Cul De Sac Location
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Epsom

£850,000



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- Lovely Reception Room
- Contemporary Kitchen/Diner
- Wonderful Mature Gardens
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom

£685,000



- Always Sought After Road
- Linked Detached House
- Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms
- Living/Dining Room
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Two Storey Extension Previously Approved
- E.P.C. Rating E

Ashted

£895,000



- Private Cul-De-Sac
- 1920's Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Open-Plan Living Space
- Planning Permission For Side Extension
- Wide North-West Aspect Gardens
- 0.3 miles to Ashted Village
- E.P.C Rating D

Ashted

£550,000



- 1937 Detached House
- Original Charm
- Three bedrooms
- Double Reception Room
- Kitchen With Breakfast Space
- Approx. 100ft South Facing Garden
- Extension Potential S.T.P.P.
- E.P.C Rating D

Leatherhead

£775,000



- Detached Family Home
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Family Bathrooms
- Conservatory
- Modern Kitchen Dining Room
- Separate Lounge and Dining Room
- Landscaped Front and Rear Gardens
- E.P.C. Rating B

Epsom

£450,000



- Semi Detached House
- Stylish Decoration
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom
- Large Reception Room
- Modern Kitchen
- Private Garden
- E.P.C. Rating B

Epsom

£395,000



- Noble Park Development
- Exclusive Block
- Stunning Modern Interior Design
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master
- Private Parking
- Long Lease
- E.P.C. Rating B

Epsom

£450,000



- Ground Floor Conversion Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Mezzanine Reception Room
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Private Decked Area & Communal Gardens
- Share Of Freehold
- Off Street Parking
- E.P.C. Rating T.B.C.

Ashted

£1,450,000



- Ideal Location
- Neo-Georgian Residence
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Two Spacious Receptions
- Stunning Gardens
- Double Garage
- E.P.C. Rating D

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Epsom, Surrey,
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01372 745850

Ewell

220 Chessington Road,
West Ewell, Surrey,
KT19 9XA

020 8394 1234

Stoneleigh

62 Stoneleigh Broadway,
Stoneleigh,
Surrey, KT17 2HS

020 8393 9411



Banstead **£975,000**

01737 333 699

- Four/Five bedroom detached
- Refurbished throughout
- Open plan kitchen/living area
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Downstairs bedroom/en-suite
- Utility and downstairs wc



Epsom **Guide price £860,000**

01372 745 850

- Charles Church built home
- Four double bedrooms
- Stunning kitchen/breakfast room
- Two spacious receptions
- Further playroom/studio
- 51ft x 36ft rear garden



Lower Kingswood **OIEO £700,000**

01737 333 699

- Detached four bed family home
- Three reception rooms
- En-suite to master
- Downstairs shower room
- South facing rear garden
- Garage



Ewell Village **£675,000**

020 8394 1234

- Three spacious bedrooms
- Stunning open plan reception space
- Kitchen opens to dining/family areas
- Separate study
- Spacious family bathroom
- Secluded 100ft x 30ft rear garden



Stoneleigh **£599,950**

020 8393 9411

- Three Bed Semi Detached Home
- Kitchen / Dining Room
- Spacious Lounge
- Detached Garage & Driveway
- 90ft Garden
- Highly Sought After Road



West Ewell **£560,000**

020 8394 1234

- Over looking Country Park
- Modern four bed semi-detached
- Impressive lounge, Fully integrated kitchen
- D/S cloakroom
- Modern ensuite shower & family bathroom
- Parking for two cars



Epsom **Guide Price £429,950**

01372 745 850

- Unique and Secluded
- Heart of Conservation Area
- Attached single storey property
- Two spacious bedrooms
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Fully enclosed garden & O.S Parking



Worcester Park **£395,000**

020 8393 9411

- Two Double Bedroom Freehold House
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Kitchen / Breakfast Room
- Upstairs Bathroom
- 20ft Private Garden
- Garage in Block



Epsom **£315,000**

01372 745 850

- Luxury Double Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor with Private Terrace
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- Generous Storage
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2 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=D



Epsom £1,250 pcm
2 bedrooms furnished EPC=B



Epsom £1,345 pcm
2 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=C



Epsom £1,750 pcm
4 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=B



Leatherhead £1,875 pcm
4 bedrooms furn/unf EPC=E



Langley Vale £2,595 pcm
4 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=C

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Esher

£3,850pcm



- Detached House
 - Five Bedrooms
 - Two Receptions
 - Study & Gf Cloakroom
- Fitted Kitchen
 - Rear Garden
 - Available Immediately
 - E.P.C. Rating F

Ashtead

£2,650pcm



- Detached House
 - Five Bedrooms
 - Two En-Suites
 - Living/Dining Room
- Separate Formal Dining Room
 - Including Gardener
 - Avail Mid March
 - E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom

£2,500 pcm



- Four Bedrooms
 - Modern Kitchen
 - Open Plan Diner
 - Two Receptions
- Family Bathroom
 - Large Garden
 - Garage
 - Available 1st April

Epsom

£1,650pcm



- Three Bedrooms
 - Two Receptions
 - Galley Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
- Private Garden
 - Great Location
 - Parking
 - E.P.C Rating

Stoneleigh

£1,695pcm



- Three Bedrooms
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Garage
 - Garden
- Unfurnished
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Available Now
 - E.P.C Rating E

Epsom Downs

£1,795pcm



- Four Bedroom Semi
 - Spacious Lounge/Diner
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Downstairs Wc
- Four Bedrooms
 - Family Bathroom
 - Rear Garden
 - E.P.C Rating TBC

Epsom

£1,050pcm



- Luxury Apartment
 - Ground Floor
 - One Double Bedroom
 - Secure Allocated Parking
- Integrated Appliances
 - Perfect Location
 - Available Now
 - E.P.C Rating

Epsom

£1,150pcm



- Ground Floor Apartment
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Kitchen
 - Shower Room
- Communal Gardens
 - Off Street Parking
 - Close To Town Centre
 - E.P.C Rating E

Epsom

£1,600 pcm



- Three Bedrooms
 - Basement
 - Two Receptions
 - Modern Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
 - Private Garden
 - Town Location

23 YEARS AND COUNTING...

The
CAIRDS
Estate Agents

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Ewell**£1,650pcm**

- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Reception
- Fitted Kitchen
- Garden
- Unfurnished
- Garage
- E.P.C. Rating D

Stoneleigh**£1,750pcm**

- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ample Parking
- Large Garden
- Dining Area
- Furnished Or Unfurnished
- E.P.C Rating D

Epsom**£1,650pcm**

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Off Street Parking
- Rear Garden
- First Flr Bathroom
- College Area
- E.P.C. Rating D

New Malden**£1,700pcm**

- Linked Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Reception Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Large Garden
- Driveway & Garage
- E.P.C Rating D

Epsom**£1,395pcm**

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Study/Bedroom 3
- Available Now
- E.P.C Rating D

Ashted**£1,495pcm**

- Fully Refurbished
- Three Bedrooms
- Sunny Living Room
- Fully Equipped Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Private Garden
- Available Now
- E.P.C Rating TBC

Epsom**£995pcm**

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- One Double Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Permit Parking
- Garden
- Edge Of Town & Station
- Unfurnished
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom**£1,000pcm**

- Communal & Own Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Oak Floors/Sash Windows
- Luxury Shower Room
- Shaker Kitchen
- Furnished Or Unfurnished
- One Double Bedroom
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom**£1,295pcm**

- First Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Close To Station & Town
- Unfurnished
- One Parking Space
- E.P.C. Rating D

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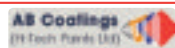
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BACKGROUND: With this improved D-Max, Isuzu has become a more competitive contender in the growing UK pickup sector. An efficient new 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine can haul and tow hefty loads through the wildest terrain you're likely to come across and a range of new touchscreen entertainment systems are available, plus as ever, there are three bodystyles to suit a wide range of buyers. Smart, tough and affordable, it looks set to do very well.

DRIVING EXPERIENCE: Within the confines of the kind of vehicle a tough pick-up can be, Isuzu's D-Max represented a huge dynamic step forward for its brand when it was first launched back in 2012. The vehicle's only major achilles heel was its engine, a relatively inefficient old-tech 2.5-litre diesel unit. So the Japanese brand has moved to improve things, replacing this powerplant with a new 1.9-litre diesel that though less torquey, is much cleaner and more frugal.

Rivals can match this unit's figures, but too often, they're tucked away in the corner of a sales showroom really dedicated to selling passenger cars. Will such a place really support a dedicated pick-up person when they really need it? And will the vehicle in question really be as capable in the Serengeti as it is in Surbiton? With this D-Max, you know you've little to worry about on either score. With Isuzu, it was always that way. It's just that with

this model, there's a little more polish with the product on offer.

DESIGN: Pulling power is the first thing you notice about this improved D-Max once out on the road. Though the single engine on offer is much smaller than before (a 1.9-litre diesel replaces the previous 2.5-litre unit), the power output (164PS) is almost exactly the same as previously and torque falls only from 400 to 360Nm, which many will think a fair trade for this powerplant's much improved levels of efficiency. It's also a major reason why this vehicle can tow a braked trailer of up to 3.5-tonnes - usefully more than an equivalent Fiat Fullback or Mitsubishi L200.

For wet or icy tarmac or light off-piste work, you can take the opportunity, at up to 60mph, to twist the centre console dial and select high range all-wheel drive. It takes a second or so for the front wheels to engage but when they do, the D-Max feels notably more sure-footed on the slippery stuff. Of course, once in a while, you'll need to do more, occasions on which you'll be further twisting this dial to engage the full low-range four wheel drive mode, something that can only happen when the vehicle's stopped. In this mode, you really do get an incredibly accomplished off-roader, aided by a well chosen first gear ratio that's an ideal 'crawler gear' over rough terrain on which you'll appreciate ground



clearance that at 235mm is much higher than you get with most other rival pick-ups.

MARKET: Styling was one of the things buyers always liked about the D-Max, so Isuzu hasn't changed it much with this round of updates. This means that the same rakish, wedgy styling has been retained, a shape that's supposed to look 'tough, poised and ready for work'. The large front grille is decorated with daytime running lights and flows into an A-pillar that's set at an acute angle leading to the relatively low roofline.

At the rear, you'll find a set of large tail lamps, which feature LEDs on higher-specification models.

Climb inside, which is easier than you might expect thanks to wide-opening doors, and you're greeted by an interior that's hard-wearing and cleanly styled. Plusher models feature a revised range of touchscreen entertainment systems equipped with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems, so you can mirror in your smartphone. Plus there are updated ergonomics and better trim quality.

The back seat is more comfortable

than you might expect it to be, thanks to a long wheelbase that facilitates decent head, leg and shoulder room.

Plus the seat back isn't as vertically inclined as it is on some pick-ups, so you get greater comfort on longer journeys. One nice touch is the way that 60/40 split-folding rear seats enable you to more flexibly use this rear passenger space for packages, should you so wish. Additional storage compartments in the floor under the rear-seat base are also useful for keeping things out of harm's way.

PRACTICALITIES & COSTS: The

previous D-Max range line-up has been retained, so there are 'Utility', 'Eiger', 'Yukon', 'Utah' and 'Blade' trim levels, with a range of single, extended and double cab variants available.

The entry-level 'Utility' D-Max, priced from just under £16,000 ex VAT comes equipped with LED daytime running lights, Hill Start Assist, Hill Descent Control, Bluetooth connectivity, power windows and air conditioning. The 'Eiger' double cab (from around £20,500 ex VAT) adds a reversing camera, 16-inch alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers and an audio system with CD player and 6 speakers. For the same money, the mid-range 'Yukon' includes 18-inch alloy wheels, silver side steps, a 7-inch multi-function touchscreen, LED rear lights, Cruise Control, a rear load liner and a leather steering wheel.

The plusher 'Utah' (from just over £24,000 ex VAT) takes comfort up a notch with keyless entry with push button start, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, satellite navigation, a DAB digital radio, roof bars, leather upholstery with heated front seats, rear parking sensors and automatic air conditioning. Finally, the range-topping 'Blade' (from around £27,000 ex VAT) adds tinted windows, a 9-inch multi-function touchscreen, a remote locking lower tailgate, Blade puddle lamps, front and rear parking sensors and a colour-coded Aeroklas canopy or sports bar with roller cover.

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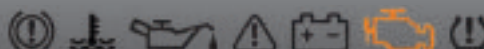
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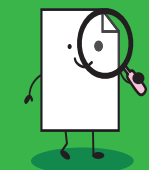
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Conquering Cranleigh run

ATHLETICS: Tadworth A.C.'s Paul O'Callaghan, pictured, had a fine run in Sunday's Cranleigh 21-mile race, a challenging course over country lanes to the west of Horsham. In windy conditions he finished third out of a field of 350, finishing in 2:04:05. Team mate Mark Todd was 42nd in

2:31:08. Both runners are preparing for the London Marathon in April. At the town centre-based Kingston Breakfast Run, Andrew Morrison completed the 16.2 mile race in 3:08:54, and was placed 559th out of 600.



Mikel Miller scored a hat-trick for the Robins

Robins hunt for play-offs

CARSHALTON 4
HERNE BAY 1

FOOTBALL: Carshalton Athletic kept their play-off dreams alive with a comfortable win over Herne Bay, writes James Barrett.

The visitors set their stall out early with late challenges and harried clearances, but the pace of Mikel Miller, Kingsley Aikhionbare and Ryan Gondoh kept them on the back foot.

After a number of near-misses, Robins made the breakthrough on 29 minutes. Darnell Weise handled a cross into the Bay area and Miller slotted in the spot kick.

Bay responded and goalkeeper Joe Tupper tipped Adam Woolcott's effort over the crossbar.

From a Bay corner, Robins broke and Miller blasted in a shot from just inside the box. Carshalton led 2-0 at the break.

Robins began the second-half in brisk fashion but it was Bay who scored the next goal. A long free kick was pumped into the box and Mark Lovell headed the ball past Tupper.

Carshalton restored their two-goal lead as Miller and Korboa swapped three passes inside their area before the former dinked home his hat-trick goal.

Bradford and Korboa both had runs on goal halted by the linesman's flag during the closing stages, but substitute Omari Hibbert did add a fourth in added time by cutting in from the left and hitting a shot past Dolo for his first goal in Robins red.

Carshalton have moved up to fifth in the Ryman South, four points off Corinthian-Casuals.

They travel to Guernsey on Sunday, April 2 before heading off to Sittingbourne on Saturday, April 8.

SUTTON UNITED U's remain unbeaten against league leaders Lincoln City thanks to Deacon Roarie's rocket rescues a point

REPORTER

WARREN GWILLYM

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FOOTBALL: Roarie Deacon's 20-yard rocket shot in injury time stunned National League leaders Lincoln City to earn a point for Sutton United at Gander Green Lane on Tuesday night.

In the much-anticipated battle of the FA Cup giant killers, United had to defend resolutely with Jamie Collins and Louis John coping admirably with the speed of Lee Angol and physical presence of Matt Rhead.

The first half produced few clear-cut opportunities for either side but Sutton were frustrated to see their appeals for a penalty waved away by referee Dean Treleaven after Adam Coombes was tripped in the box.

The Imps took control of the game in the second period and came close to taking the lead twice.

Sean Raggett's downward header was deflected on to the crossbar at the last moment by a Sutton defender, while goalkeeper Will Puddy made a magnificent one-handed save to deny Rhead.

In the 81st minute, just as both teams seemed content to settle for a point, the Sutton defence was caught out by Sam Habbergham's far post corner which was headed home by Elliott Whitehouse from four yards.

United's attacking options were largely limited to counter attacks and their delivery from deadball situations gave Lincoln's defence little cause for concern as the game entered injury time.



But just when it seemed the Imps would earn three more vital points to aid their title tilt and with a few despondent U's fans drifting out of the exit, Deacon produced another moment of magic.

The Sutton striker unleashed a ferocious shot from 20 yards that flew past goalkeeper Paul Farman sparking wild scenes of celebration among the U's faithful in a crowd of 2,246.

The point pushes United up to 14th in the National League table on 49 points with seven games remaining.

Sutton assistant manager Micky Stephens was delighted that his side never gave up. He said: "I thought it was a terrific game.

"Roarie came up trumps for us once again and got him-



Roarie Deacon scored a stoppage-time equaliser on Tuesday night. Kieron Cadogan heads the ball forward

Pictures: Paul Loughlin

self another wonder goal at the end.

"I don't think there was much between the two teams on the night."

As well as Deacon's late strike, Stephens was full of praise for the Sutton defence which excelled against the league's top team.

He said: "I thought that was a real positive. They're obviously a very physical side.

"They have a set way of playing and you have to admire them for that because it's taken them to the point of winning the league."

United now face two tough away games against relegation-threatened Woking on Saturday and title challengers Tranmere Rovers next Tuesday.

ATHLETICS: Sutton Runners took part in the Kingston Breakfast Run and the Cranleigh 21 last weekend. In Kingston, Anita Hedges finished in 2:37:21. Pam Clarke and Wendy Ballard completed the 16.2m version of the course in 2:24:50 and 2:38:43. At Cranleigh, Thomas Schofield finished in 2:48:24, while Susie Grounds got a personal best of 3:04:02.

FOOTBALL: Two goals from Matty Aiuletta and one from Michael Campbell helped Sutton Common Rovers come back from a goal down to beat Windsor 3-1 on Monday. Guildford City will visit this Saturday (KO 3pm).

RUGBY: New Malden-based Old Emanuel Rugby Club pulled seven points clear at the top of Surrey 1 with an 27-15 away win at Old Georgians on Saturday. A victory next Saturday will make them champions. The club has raised more than £50,000 for the family of popular player Shawnton de Four, who collapsed and dying on the pitch just three weeks ago. His funeral takes place next Friday. The day after, the 1st XV travel to Old Whitgiftians to try to secure their promotion.

ATHLETICS: Herne Hill Harriers had two young athletes representing the England Schools team at the annual SIAB Home International Cross Country race at Marmag Country Park in Wales. In the Intermediate Girls race Charlotte Alexander placed fourth over the 4,610m course. Jaden Kennedy had to race over the same distance in the Junior Boys event. He did very well to finish tenth.

FOOTBALL: Croydon FC suffered a 7-0 defeat at the hands of Whitstable Town on Saturday. The loss was ineplicable given they had beaten Crowborough Athletic away 0-1 the previous Tuesday. This weekend they face back to back home games against Canterbury City and Tunbridge Wells.

Rampaging Saxons put S&E's proud record to the sword

SOUTHEND SAXONS 45
SUTTON & EPSOM 12

RUGBY: Sutton travelled to a resurgent Saxons defending a proud 100 per cent record in fixtures against the Essex triumvirate of Colchester, Southend and Westcliff.

That statistic was swept away in the opening half hour.

On a sunny afternoon at Warners Bridge Park there was a strong wind which Southend used to full effect in the opening period.

The Essex side opened the scoring after eight minutes when a sumptuous offload in

the centre created the space for the try.

Fly-half Bradley Burr added the extras, his first points in a faultless kicking display.

As the first quarter drew to a close they secured a second try. Following numerous reset scrums a penalty try was awarded.

Sutton awoke from their slumber to score from a catch and drive from an attacking line out.

Steve Munford added the conversion for 21-7.

Any hopes of a Black & White revival were quashed two minutes later as poor tackling allowed a try in the

corner. Burr extended the lead with a penalty before S&E besieged the try line. Eventually James Faaatuatu forced his way over. S&E went into the interval 31-12 behind.

In the third quarter the visitors enjoyed more possession but failed to capitalise on the wind.

Too often promising positions were undone by errors or giving away penalties.

As the game became looser, the only highlights of a rather indifferent half of rugby were two splendid tries by Southend Saxons in the last 10 minutes.

For the hosts a 45-12 win will be encouragement for their end of season against the unholy trinity of Hertford, Westcombe Park and Tonbridge Juddians.

The Saxons with a very comfortable bonus point win gained a vital lifeline in their fight for survival.

This Saturday, S&E entertain champions-elect Tonbridge Juddians at Rugby Lane.

They will need to put this disappointing performance behind them and regroup if they are to avoid a very testing afternoon on April Fools Day.

